

2009

HUNTING UPDATE



ROGER KAHN, M.D. OUR STATE SENATOR

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Dear Friend,

With autumn in the air, Michigan's hunting heritage takes center stage. Whether you hunt deer, turkey, waterfowl or small game, our state has some of the best hunting opportunities around.

As you plan your fall trip, I wanted to send along some important hunting information. This report provides a legislative update, safety tips, resource list and more. I hope you find it informative.

Hunters are important to Michigan, contributing not only to wildlife management and conservation, but providing a major economic boost. Each year, hunters pump \$2 billion into our economy.

I value your comments and suggestions on ways to preserve our hunting heritage and look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes for a safe and successful hunting season!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Roger Kahn".

Roger Kahn, M.D.
State Senator
32nd District

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Senator Roger Kahn, M.D.



DNR EXPANDS CROSSBOW USE AFTER PUBLIC INPUT

Hunters have more opportunities to enjoy their favorite sport under new regulations carefully reviewed and approved by the DNR this spring.

Under the new regulations, anyone who is 12 years or older and has obtained the free crossbow stamp can hunt with a crossbow during any season when a firearm is allowed, for big game or small game. Anyone 50 years or older can use a crossbow during the Oct.1-Nov.14 archery deer season, with an archery license.

Hunters 12 and older can hunt in Zone 3 (southern Michigan) with a crossbow during any hunting season with the appropriate licenses.

In all cases, crossbows are restricted to no more than 350 feet per second.

The regulations have a three-year sunset at which time they will be re-evaluated. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/dnr and type in the keywords crossbow hunting.



DEER HUNTING UPDATE

A LOOK AT LAST YEAR

2008 was another great year for deer hunters in Michigan! An estimated 694,000 hunters spent 9.7 million days in the field. Hunters harvested nearly 490,000 deer, a 1 percent increase from the previous year. Statewide, 47 percent of hunters harvested a deer; about 16 percent harvested two or more deer.

Check out these statistics and more in the 2008 Deer Harvest Survey Report. Access it at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

(Click on **Hunting** on the left sidebar, then **Wildlife Surveys and Reports**).



A LOOK AHEAD – 2009 SEASONS

- **YOUTH AND 100 PERCENT DISABLED VETERANS DEER HUNT:** Sept. 26-27

- **SPECIAL DISABLED FIREARM HUNT:** Oct. 15-18

- **ARCHERY SEASON:** Oct.1-Nov. 14 and Dec. 1-Jan. 1

- **REGULAR FIREARM SEASON:** Nov. 15-30

- **MUZZLELOADING SEASON:**

Zone 1 (UP): 10 days starting 1st Friday in December. Dec. 4-13

Zone 2 (NLP): 10 days starting 2nd Friday in December. Dec. 11-20

Zone 3 (SLP): 17 days starting 1st Friday in December. Dec. 4-20

- **LATE FIREARM SEASON:**
(antlerless deer on private land only in Open DMUs) Dec. 21-Jan. 1

** consult the 2009 Hunting Guide for restrictions*



NEW LAW EXPANDS HUNTER ORANGE EXCEPTIONS

Michigan hunters are familiar with the hunter orange clothing requirement: a person may not take game during the established daylight shooting hours from August 15 through April 30 unless wearing a hat, cap, vest, jacket or rain gear of hunter orange.

There are exceptions to this requirement and Public Act 65 of 2009 expands the exceptions to include:

- Hunters hunting deer with a crossbow during archery deer season.
- Hunters hunting bear with a crossbow.
- Hunters who are stationary and in the act of hunting bobcat, coyote or fox.
- Persons engaged in the sport of falconry.

You can check the Hunter Orange requirements and exceptions in the 2009 Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide.



KAHN BACKS NEW LICENSE LAWS

I supported two Senate bills recently signed into law that help strengthen Michigan's great outdoor heritage.

Public Act 34 of 2009 (SB 409) allows the Natural Resources Commission to offer hunting and fishing licenses that are valid for more than one year. In today's busy world, convenient multi-year licenses make it easier for people to participate in these time-honored traditions.

Public Act 69 of 2009 (SB 349) allows the DNR to either discount or eliminate the fee for any license to achieve a specific wildlife management goal. Discounted licenses are another way to encourage more people to hunt and fish and enjoy Michigan's great outdoors.

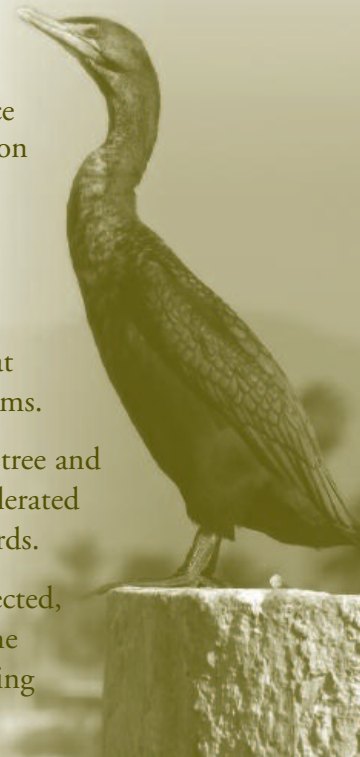
CORMORANT CONTROL RESOLUTION ADOPTED

The Senate recently adopted a resolution requesting that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service extend indefinitely the depredation order for double-crested cormorants.

These large, destructive birds are dramatically depleting local fish populations throughout the Great Lakes, and inland lakes and streams.

The cormorants are also causing tree and vegetation destruction at an accelerated rate as well as public health hazards.

As cormorants are federally protected, SR 54 has been transmitted to the federal agencies in charge of getting their population under control.



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Resource Guide:

One of the best things about hunting is getting out and enjoying the full flavor of Michigan's great outdoors! But you can streamline preparations for your trip online from the comfort of your own easy chair.

Purchase your hunting license.....www.mdnr-elastic.com

Make campground reservationswww.midnrreservations.com

Take a hunting safety classwww.dnr.state.mi.us/recnsearch

Access the 2009 hunting guideswww.michigan.gov/dnrhunting

Check your wildlife lab results.....<https://secure1.state.mi.us/testresults>

If you have questions and want to talk to the DNR directly, try these phone numbers:

Wildlife Division.....517-373-1263

Fisheries517-373-1280

Parks & Recreation517-373-9900

Forest Management.....517-373-1275

Law Enforcement517-373-1230

Report All Poaching.....1-800-292-7800

Kahn offers Hunting safety tips

Firearm hunting incidents in 2008 were cut nearly in half from the previous year, although the state recorded two fatalities.

Many injuries were due to the careless handling of a firearm - and were entirely preventable. Before heading outdoors, remember to hunt with safety in mind and follow these basic gun safety rules:

- Always have complete control of your firearm.
- Always treat your firearm as if it was loaded.
- Before firing, know your target and what is beyond.
- Be sure the gun is safe to operate and use only the correct ammunition.
- Unload your firearm when not in use; especially before putting it in your vehicle or camp.
- And, NEVER mix hunting and alcohol.

Many non-hunters might be surprised to learn that hunting is one of the safest outdoor activities around, but that doesn't happen by accident. Let's set a new safety record this year.

